

## Information Packet for Noise

### Public Hearing

Date: January 27, 2003  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Location: Department of Labor and Industries Building  
Rooms S117 and S118  
7273 Linderson Way S.W.  
Tumwater, Washington

The Department of Labor and Industries will hold a public hearing to receive information and comments about proposed changes to the rules in chapters 296-54 WAC, 296-56 WAC, 296-59 WAC, 296-62 WAC, 296-155 WAC, 296-304 WAC, 296-305 WAC and 296-817 WAC. RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050 grants the department authority to propose and adopt these rules.

**If you require special communication or accommodation arrangements**, please contact us at (360) 902-5484 no later than January 15, 2003. Requests received after that date may not allow adequate time to make the arrangements.

### Send written comments using one of the following:

By mail to:

Tracy Spencer, Standards Manager  
WISHA Services Division  
PO Box 44620  
Olympia, WA 98504-4620

By fax: 360-902-5529 (Comments submitted by fax must be 10 pages or less.)

By electronic mail to:

Cindy Ireland, WISHA Standards Project Manager  
[mooc235@lni.wa.gov](mailto:mooc235@lni.wa.gov)

**Comments must be received no later than February 3, 2003.**

The department will respond in writing to everyone submitting oral and written comments before the deadline, and after the department has adopted changes to the rules.

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### **Chapter 296-817 WAC, Noise Standard**

The Department of Labor and Industries is proposing to rewrite and clarify requirements relating to Hearing Conservation. This rulemaking is part of our four-year plan to rewrite for clarity all of our general occupational safety and health rules. We have also identified several reference changes that will need to be updated with this rulemaking. The following is being proposed:

- The hearing conservation requirements from chapter 296-62 WAC will be renumbered in chapter 296-817 WAC.
- The rule will be reorganized and rewritten to improve clarity.
- References to consensus standards will be updated to equivalent requirements in current consensus documents.
- A reference to the consensus standard on background noise levels during audiometric testing has been modified based on the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) recommendations
- Program options are provided for employers with short-term (less than one year) employees. These program options can be used in place of employer provided audiograms.
- References to chapters 296-54 WAC, 296-56 WAC, 296-59 WAC, 296-62 WAC, 296-155 WAC, 296-304 WAC and 296-305 WAC will be updated.

Details of specific proposed amendments will be published in Washington State Register 02-24 on December 18, 2002. A formal small business economic impact statement is not required because these proposed rule changes are exempt from chapter 19.85 RCW referencing RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c). The proposed rule changes ensure conformity with federal regulations, therefore, neither a SBEIS nor a CBA are required. The tentative adoption date for these rules is April 4, 2003 and the tentative effective date is August 1, 2003.

Copies of the proposed rule changes are available upon request by calling toll free at 1-800-423-7233; or by written request to the Department of Labor and Industries, WISHA Services Division, Standards Section, Post Office Box 44620, Olympia, Washington 98504-4620. Copies of the proposed rules will also be available at the public hearing.